

In re Patent Application of:

GREGG ET AL.

Serial No. 09/680,721

Filed: OCTOBER 6, 2000

following remarks, favorable reconsideration of the rejections is requested.

The main reference relied upon by the Examiner is WO 95/11357, which was cited by Applicants in an IDS. As discussed during the telephone interview, WO 95/11357 discloses a cement panel with aerated concrete finished on both sides with a layer of cement mortar. However, the Examiner has inadvertently mischaracterized the reference as teaching the use of a resin-based mortar together with an aerated concrete core. As agreed during the interview, the reference actually refers to a prior art panel having a polystyrene core coated with a resin-based mortar.

Importantly, there is no discussion of using a monolithic body of autoclaved aerated concrete or a core consisting essentially of autoclaved aerated concrete, in combination with a moisture-resistant resin face layer being substantially continuous and blocking moisture penetration to the core or a moisture-resistant face layer comprising fibers and a moisture-resistant resin material adjacent thereto, as disclosed and claimed in the present application. Also, none of the other cited references disclose this combination of features.

There is simply no teaching or suggestion in the cited references to provide the combination of features as claimed. Accordingly, for at least the reasons given above, Applicants maintain that the cited references do not disclose or fairly suggest the invention as set forth in the independent claims. Furthermore, no proper modification of the teachings of these references could result in the invention as claimed. Thus, the rejections should be withdrawn.

It is submitted that the independent claims are patentable over the prior art. In view of the patentability of the

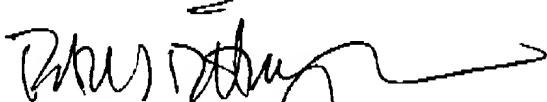
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independent claims, it is submitted that their dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing features are also patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons set forth above. Accordingly, these dependent claims require no further discussion herein.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early notice thereof is earnestly solicited. If, after reviewing this Response, there are any remaining informalities which need to be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited and respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such informalities.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via facsimile to: DIRECTOR, U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231, at 703-872-9447 on this 5th day of March, 2003.

